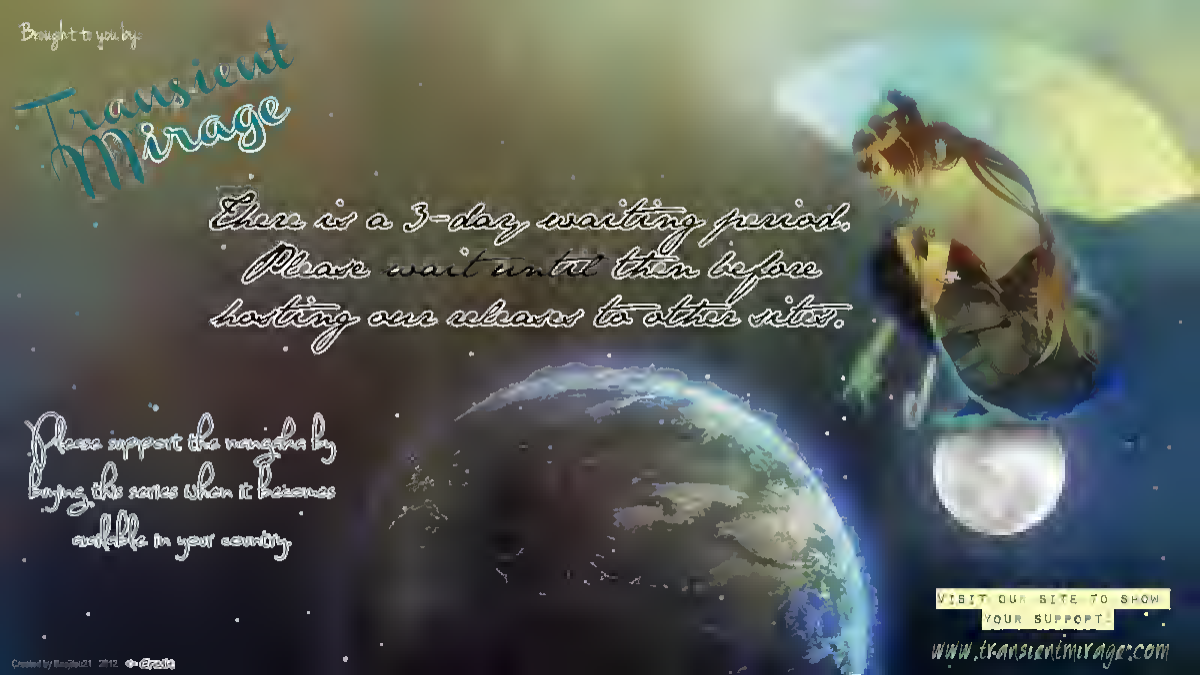
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TRANSIENT MIRAGE

THE ROSE PRINCESS'S AWAKENING

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PLEASE JOIN US!

ROSE-HIME HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY...!?
GO FIND HER!
THE PRINCESS IS...
ABOUT TO MARRY...!!

Having been
imprisoned
and played
with, the
blossom still
blooms until
today.
The Rose Princess's
Awakening
Keiko Ishihara

I HAVE LOST ALL I LOVED MOST
6 YEARS BEFORE, MOTHER AND FATHER THE KING AND THE QUEEN, PASSED AWAY IN A LANDSLIDE INCIDENT.
NOT LONG AFTER, UNDER THE POWER POLITICS IMPOSSED BY THE PRIME MINISTER KREGEL,
THE PEACEFUL LEOTNIA CEASED TO EXIST
MY BELOVED BROTHER AIN
HAS ALREADY
HOW DOES THE 6 YEARS ABSENT FRESH AIR FEEL?

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
THIS IS...?
IT'S MY CARRIAGE'S BACK CONTAINER.
I AM IMPRISONED IN THE CONVENT...
GOING BACK TO ROYAL CASTLE...?
YES
TO MARRY THE PRIME MINISTER'S ELDEST SON
YEAH
AFTER THIS SETTLED MARRIAGE WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY,
THE PRIME MINISTER HAS EVEN MORE CHANCES OF TRULY GETTING THIS COUNTRY
I WILL JUST BE USED AS THE PUPPET QUEEN

BUT UNFORTUNATELY THIS MARRIAGE HAS BEEN STOPPED.
IF ONLY I COULD DISAPPEAR
HE IS RIGHT!
NO CAN DO. SPEED UP, BALLIT.
I WAS DRUGGED!
PLEASE PLEASE STOP THE CARRIAGE!
GOT IT!
PLEASE DON'T TIE YOURSELF UP WITH ME!
I KNOW MANY HAVE DESTROYED THEIR LIVES BECAUSE OF THEIR DISCONTENT TOWARDS THE PRIME MINISTER!
YOU'RE STILL AS EASILY SCARED AS BEFORE...

TAP
WE CANNOT LET THE PRINCESS FALL INTO THE ENEMIES' HANDS!
TAP
SEND THE ELITE GUARDS!!
TAP
IS..
HE...?
I HAVE 'A CERTAIN SOMEONE'?
ANY SOLDIERS COMING?
THERE DON'T SEEM TO BE ANY
AS BEFORE?
I WAS ASKED BY A CERTAIN SOMEONE TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM YOUR PRISON.
NICE TO MEET YOU, PRINCESS.
I AM ARZEL.
HIS HAIR AND EYES..
WHO ARE YOU...?

I STILL REMEMBER
THE BROTHER I HAVE NOT SEEN FOR 6 YEARS...
THE EXPLANATION OF THE "INCIDENT" AFTER BEING FORCED OUT TO THE BORDER CITY
HE HAS BECOME TALL AND STRONG
HE HAS BEEN DEAD FOR OVER HALF A YEAR...
...WHAT'S WRONG...?
LITTLE BROTHER...
IT'S AS IF HIS CORPSE
HIME-SAMA!!
EH?
MUNCH
MUNCH
IF YOU DON'T EAT YOU WON'T STAND THE LONG JOURNEY!
JOURNEY?
WE MUST GET TO THE KITANO CASTLE, WHERE GENERAL TALZ IS
BUT BECAUSE THE KING TRUSTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S LIES,
HE IS NOW IN A POSITION WHERE HE GAVE UP ON ADVISING THE ROYAL FAMILY
HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS ENOUGH POWER TO OPPOSE THE PRIME MINISTER.

IF ROSE-HIME ASKS FOR HIS HELP...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
THERE HAVE BEEN UNCOUNTABLE REBELLION PLANS THAT HAVE BEEN CRUSHED
ALL THE PEOPLE RELATED TO IT HAVE BEEN KILLED
ARZEL.
YOU MUST REALLY CARE ABOUT THAT CERTAIN SOMEONE, RIGHT?
EVEN IF IT'S FOR THAT PERSON...
PLEASE DON'T INVOLVE YOURSELF WITH ME ANYMORE
...
I HAVE A SICK SISTER.

Sob
I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY FOR THE TREATMENT SHE NEEDS
THAT IS WHY I URGENTLY NEED THE PAY FOR TAKING YOU THERE.
Sob
SHE IS MY ONLY FAMILY.
I.
Sob
...WILL GO!
PLEASE,
PLEASE, DON'T DIE!
IF YOU ARE IN DANGER, PLEASE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY
BUT THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE

SO
MY JOURNEY TOWARDS THE KITANO CASTLE BEGAN
I PROMISE YOU.
NEVER BEING ABLE TO FEEL AT EASE
ROSE-HIME.

ALL THE ROADS THAT CROSS THE MOUTAIN ARE BLOCKED...
Aaah-
THERE'S A SEARCH POST HERE TOO
WHAT SHOULD WE DO
THERE ISN'T ANY OTHER ROAD...
Fufufu
SUCH A NEGATIVE PERSON.
THAT'S WHY YOU AREN'T POPULAR BALUI!
OI MEAN!
TO GO TO THE VERONICA BAR, ISN'T IT?
OPENS
NOW IS THE TIME
LONG TIME NO SEE...
ARA! ARZEL! BALUI!

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CONTACT US VIA ONE OF THOSE FOUR IF YOU WANT TO HELP US!
WE'LL BE WAITING!
WHICH GIRL DO YOU WANT? SO?
ARA ARA! YOU BROUGHT A GIRL WITH YOU...
I WANT VERONICA.
TO DELIVER A BLOSSOM, I NEED TO CROSS THE MOUNTAIN
THEN PLEASE GO UP TO THE 2ND FLOOR
HELP HER CHANGE HERSELF
AH!
IT'S OKAY, WE KNOW.
HIME-SAMA...
ARZEL HAS PREPARED THIS PLACE AS A BASE FOR MANY YEARS.

MANY YEARS...?
NE...
YOU ARE GOING THERE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER, RIGHT?
Gre
Bi
YOU MUST KILL HIM!!
MY LOVER WAS FORCED TO GO TO WAR BY HIM!
I BEG OF YOU!
WE...
AIN!
ONEE-CHAN.
HAVE I NEVER WON THE WAR, NOT ONCE?

THE BOYS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S FAMILY
YOU
YOU LOT
LEAVE IT TO ME!
THOSE THINGS DON'T MATTER!
I COULDN'T RECOVER ONEE-CHAN'S HAIR BAND
THEY ARE JUST LIKE THEIR PARENTS, THEY BEHAVE SO RECKLESLY.
I WILL
PROTECT ONEE-CHAN!!
AIN WAS
I CANNOT LEAVE MY SISTER ON HER OWN!
YOUR HIGHNESS,
COULD YOU PLEASE HELP GUARD IN THE BORDER CITY?
NOT A BOY WHO LET GO OF HIS WORD EASILY

BUT I, KREGEL, WILL BE EXTREMELY WORRIED.
Ba
WOULD HIS HIGHNESS SUFFER THE SAME FATE
IN THIS CITY AS YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.
Thump
YET I
AIN...
GO...
GAVE UP.

SFX BANG
I TOLD YOU! YOU CANNOT COME IN HERE!
RESISTANCE EQUALS REBELLION AGAINST THE COUNTRY!
ARE YOU HIDING A GIRL DRESSED IN A WHITE GOWN!?
SHUT UP AND GO AWAY!!
PUSH
YOU CANNOT GO OUT THERE!
ARZEL...
STO...
BUT THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF ME!!

IT IS ALL BECAUSE OF ME!
ALL!!
ALL OF IT...!!
ROSE.
LET ME BREAK YOUR CURSE.
EH!?
SFX: JUM S

ARGEU
!?
SWOOSH
I WILL NOT DIE
I PROMISED YOU

EEEEEEEK!
THE OLD STREET!
DID YOU FIND AN ESCAPE WAY!?
I HAVE!
PREPARE TO GO BALLIT!
No! No! No! No! No! No! No!
!!!
ISN'T THAT THE SE, SE, SE, SEALED CLIFF!!?
IF THERE IS A ROAD THEN WE CAN CROSS IT!

DON'T GIVE UP!
SO FAR YET

I STOLE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S HOUSE
THIS IS THE BOTTLE
WITH THE POISON INSIDE IT, I CAN...
THIS WAS MY INITIAL PLAN
BUT
ARE THERE...
OTHER WAYS OUT...
EVEN IF THERE AREN'T, WE CAN MAKE THEM UP.

MY CURSE... WHAT IS IT?
IT IS
A SHAMEFUL CURSE THAT MAKES ONESELF SINK IN IT.
IT IS
ALL THE PEOPLE RELATED TO ME WILL HAVE BAD LUCK!
HA HA HA!
Sha, shame-ful...
IT'S A JOKE!
Hahah
WANT TO BECOME AS STRONG AS YOU!
I...

EATING AND SLEEPING IS VERY IMPORTANT!
THEN START EATING!
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
I .I DIDN'T MEAN THAT...
More like that /
JUST LIKE YOU HAVE TO KEEP SMILING.
Rustle
UNBELIEVEABLE
YES,
ARZEL.
SIZZLE
SIZZLE

BALUT!
EH?
AH--!
LET ME HELP!

EVEN IF IT'S A SMALL SCRATCH, IT COULD BECOME A BIG PROBLEM!
COULD...
ARZEL!
..SORRY..
IT'S NOT A VERY DEEP WOUND, ROSE.
YOU KNOW MANY THINGS, ROSE
Sigh
I...DON'T HAVE A SICK SISTER.
I LIED TO TAKE YOU OUT.
ACTU-ALLY..
THERE IS SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR
EH?
REALLY?
I'M HAPPY I'M OF HELP!
I learned lots of this in the convent

SL
SORRY...
THIS MUST BE AN UN-FORGIVABLE LIE...
APS
IT IS BETTER THAT YOU DON'T HAVE A SICK SISTER!
ROSE...
ARZEL...
BUT, THE LIES SHOULD STOP HERE, DON'T YOU THINK?

EH?
THANK YOU AND SORRY.
drop
EH?
drop
EH
HERE.
I JUST PICKED THEM UP!
DIDN'T YOU LOVE BLACK-BERRIES?
I'LL GO STAND GUARD--
Blush
Blush
HMMM
WHEN I'M WITH ARIEL
THE FEELINGS I THOUGHT WERE DEAD SEEM TO COME BACK
THE WARMTH..
I LIKE IT
SO HAPPY
SO PRETTY

LIKE!
SHA
SHA
SHA
YOUR HIGHNESS KRIEGEL...
IT WAS DECIDED THAT MORE PERSONNEL WILL BE ADDED TO THE SEARCH
REGARDING THE PRINCESS'S KIDNAPPING.
WHAT HAPPENED?
NOTHING
BALUT IS PREPARING THE FIRE...
ROSE...
SHOCK

THE COUNTRY I...
SFX: BREEZE
THE COUNTRY YOU ARE PROTECTING.
A-ARZEL!?
WHAT!?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN OUTSIDE FOR SO LONG...
ARZEL...
LETS GO AND CHECK THE PLACE OUT, ROSE.

SO ..
AM PROCTECTING.
SO BIG!
ARZEL, I...
SO PRETTY...!

I'M SO SCARED ARZEL.
AREN'T YOU SMIL-
Ba-thump
YOU'RE ALL HAPPY BECAUSE YOU ARE HIGH UP HERE.
I'M SCARED.
WHEN I'M WITH ARZEL I LOVE THINGS EVEN MORE
YOU'RE SUCH A KID.
SO SCARED...!

DON'T DISAPPEAR
DON'T LEAVE ME
I LOVE YOU.
PLEASE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, ROSE.
RUSH

THEY CAN REALLY HIDE WELL...
THERE'S NOBODY IN THE TRUCK.
Crack...
Badump
Badump
Badump
Badump
I WAS RIGHT IN COMING HERE. LETS GO DOWN THE HILL QUIETLY.
BUT ARZEL...
THEY AREN'T VERY SMART, DON'T WORRY
THE ELITE GUARDS!
Fall
ARZEL!
!
Crack...

THERE!!
ARZ...
!!
NO...
ROSE...
A...
HOLD YOUR BREATH.
THEY'RE GOING TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE RIVER!
STOP! YOU'LL HIT THE PRINCESS...
HOW COULD I!?
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE ANYTHING
BOOM...
SFX: BANG

NOT AGAIN...
Drop
Drop
Drop
IT'S OKAY, ROSE. AS LONG AS WE CAN GET BACK TOGETHER WITH BALLIT...
Shh
Shh
Shh
DON'T WORRY...
KITANO CASTLE IS JUST AHEAD.
SFX: THUD. THUD.
I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE ROYAL CASTLE...

I REALLY DON'T
KNOW ANY OTHER WAY TO PROTECT THE COUNTRY...
THANK YOU ARZEL!
FOR HELPING ME GET OUT.
WITH MY LIFE
LET ME PROTECT YOU
PLEASE
ROSE!
AIN,
NEVER GAVE UP!

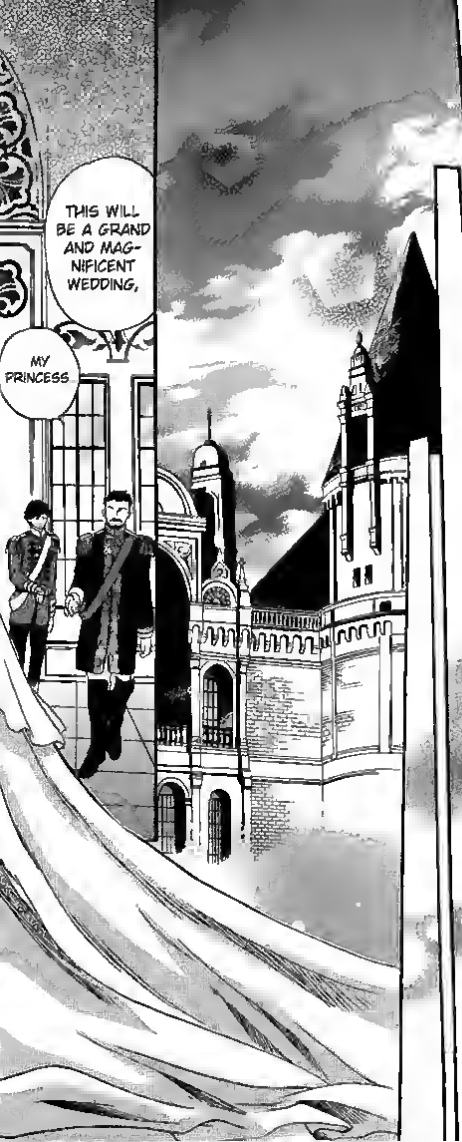
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SENT TO THE BORDER CITY.
HE STILL TRIED TO GATHER FORCES TO SAVE YOU.
ALTHOUGH BAD LUCK MADE HIM PASS AWAY,
. WHO
ARE YOU.. ?
HE IS STILL FIGHTING!!!

...ARZEL SIDNEY.
PRIME MINISTER KREGEL SIDNEY'S YOUNGEST SON.
THANKS TO AIN
I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO STOP FATHER AND BROTHER WHO WENT MAD FOR POWER.
HE KNEW EVERY-THING.
THANKS TO AIN'S HELP,
I HAD BEEN SECRETELY HELPING HIM.
WHY. WHY..
THU
MP

I HAVE ALWAYS...
I YEARNED FOR THAT WARMTH BETWEEN
LIVING IN THAT ALWAYS TOGETHER, YET COLD, AND FULL OF HATRED FAMILY...
YOU AND YOUR BROTHER.
FOR YOU.
LIKED THAT ABOUT YOU...
I WANTED TO BECOME YOUR KNIGHT JUST LIKE YOUR BROTHER!
AIN...

I WANT TO...
GO BACK TO THE ROYAL CASTLE
YOU REALLY CAN'T TEAM UP WITH THE ENEMY'S SON...
IT'S NOT THAT!
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP...!
ARZEL...
I WILL BE THE BAIT
AFTER THAT, YOU'LL ESCAPE.
SOMEDAY, YOU WILL COME AND SAVE ME.
YOU NEVER GAVE UP...
YOU...
EVEN BROUGHT THIS PERSON TO MY SIDE
AH...

WON'T LOSE FAITH ANY-MORE...
MY KNIGHT.
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU
BE IT 10 YEARS OR 20 YEARS



I PROMISE YOU, ROSE-HIME.

FIGHT FOR YOUR BELIEFS.

FOR YOUR LOVED ONE'S HAND.

MY SON WAS REALLY RUDE..
ABOUT THE ABDUCTION INCIDENT,
HE WAS A SON WHO MADE OUR FAMILY ASHAMED.
BUT NOW WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM ANYMORE.
BATHUMP
JOIN MY SON IN FRONT OF THE COUNTRY.
COME.
BATHUMP
BATHUMP
HE AND HIS CAR WENT DOWN A CLIFF.
BA
HE WILL NOT BE APPEARING ANYMORE.
THUMP

Breath...
I PROMISE YOU, ROSE-HIME
THAT WASN'T AN ABDUCTION NOR AN ESCAPE.
Clack
I, WHO HAD LOST ALL FAITH AND CLOSED MY EYES
THAT WAS THE JOURNEY OF MY AWAKENING
FROM THE LIFE THAT EQUALED DEATH
YET NOW—

THIS [illegible] WAS ALL THANKS TO YOU
I WON'T CLOSE MY EYES ANYMORE
TOWARDS THE SIDE OF THE PEOPLE I PROTECT
COME
TOWARDS

MY FAITH..

I HAVE COME TO SAVE YOU ROSE!

!
THESE ARE ALL THE REBELS FROM EVERY PARTY
AND MANY OTHERS.
THIS ARMY'S... NUMBER...
I WASN'T GOING TO DO THIS EITHER.
TALZ...
THE ONE WHOM THE ROYAL FAMILY REFUSED TO HAVE ANY RELATIONS WITH! WHY YOU...!
TO MAKE HIM GO AWAY I TOLD HIM TO SAVE THE PRINCESS ON HIS OWN. HE ACCEPTED WITHOUT A HINT OF WORRY ON HIS FACE.
EVEN IF I REFUSED TO, HE'D GATHER MORE PEOPLE AND COME AGAIN.
Fu
Fu.
6 YEARS!!
THIS IDIOT HAS BEEN ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS NAGGING ME ABOUT THIS!
EVEN THOUGH HE COULD FAIL. EVEN THOUGH HE COULD DIE.
Fu

YOU..
I COULDN'T BE UNMOVED!
THIS IDIOT NEVER GAVE UP..
LOST TO THIS ROYAL SIBLING!

YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE, ARZEL!
WHAT SHOULD OUR NEXT PROMISE BE?
YES.
LET'S GO SOMEDAY TO THE BORDER CITY.
OH YES!
I JUST WANT YOU TO LIVE HAPPILY BESIDE ME...
I CAN'T JUST FULFILL ONLY THIS PROMISE!
ONE DAY...
TOGETHER, CHASING AIN'S MEMORIES!
WE'LL HAVE BALUT AS THE DRIVER. THE THREE OF US

THE TIGHTLY CLOSED BLOSSOM
WILL BLOOM!
EMBRACING THE NEVER-ENDING STRENGTH
FOREVER
OPENED
THE END